



## Exclusive Online Savings!

### Add a Month in Excel

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**Is there a formula in Excel for incrementing dates by one month at a time? For example, if I have a cell that contains 1/1/2003, I want the cell below it to be 2/1/2003. But if I change the first cell to 1/21/2003, the second should show 2/21/2003. And if the first cell reads 1/31/2003, the second should show 2/28/2003 (and 2/29 in a leap year). Is there a way to do this?**

**John Chaney**

The two functions that you need are part of the Analysis ToolPak add-in. (Select Tools | Add-Ins | Analysis ToolPak.)

EDATE function returns an input date offset by a specified number of months. Suppose your input date is in cell A1. The formula =EDATE(A1,1) will display the date that's one month later. If the date is past the end of the month (for example, 2/31/2003), Excel uses the last actual date in the month. But if the following month has more days than the current month, the EDATE function will not adjust forward to the actual end of month. So, if A1 holds 2/28/2003, the formula will return 3/28/2003, not 3/31/2003.

If you want to translate the last day of the month into the last day of the next month, you need a more complex formula. The EOMONTH function returns the last day of the input month offset by a set number of months.

In our example, =EOMONTH(A1,0) would return the end of the current month. Thus the following formula will do the job: =IF(A1=EOMONTH(A1,0),EOMONTH(A1,1),EDATE(A1,1)). In plain English, if the value in cell A1 is the same as the last day of the month, use the EOMONTH function to return the last day of the next month. Otherwise, return the same day in the next month, taking into account the possibility that the next month may be shorter.

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